

COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC KVP at the Weisswasser Troop Training Grounds:

Beginning of Maneuvers in the Area of Traenke

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 29 September 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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 1. On 15 and 16 July 1953, a KVP shipment of about 30 converted boxcars with 450 to 600 KVPs stood at the Weisswasser railroad station. The troops were observed marching to the troop training grounds where they engaged in training activity with light machine guns and rifles. The troops were entrained again at the Weisswasser railroad station and left toward Spremberg at about 8:50 p.m. on 16 July 1953.¹

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2. At about 8:30 p.m. on 21 July, a KVP shipment of about 25 cars with an estimated 500 KVPs passed through Weisswasser in the direction of Cottbus, having come from the direction of Goerlitz.¹

3. At 10:45 p.m. on 18 August, a KVP train of 20 to 23 cars with 400 to 500 troops passed through Weisswasser from the direction of Spremberg and proceeded toward Goerlitz.¹

4. Between 13 July and 20 August 1953, regular artillery fire with live ammunition was heard from the Weisswasser troop training grounds, with about three rounds fired each minute. Camp Nohchten-Boxberg was still occupied by KVP. Most of the trucks observed in traffic between the camp and Weisswasser brought construction material to camp Nohchten.

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 5. On 12 August, the KVP tank unit stationed at Weisswasser troop training grounds was commanded by Major Fritz Richter from Halle who wore blue-bordered epaulets and blue collar patches.²

6. Between 8 a.m. and noon on 12 August, about 400 KVPs wearing red-bordered epaulets and black collar patches practiced firing with live ammunition with heavy machine guns at the infantry training site. About 400 other KVPs wearing yellow-bordered epaulets and black collar patches practiced there with heavy machine guns from 2 to 4 p.m. on 13 August. At about 8:30 a.m. on 18 August, about 350 troops with submachine guns marched from Camp Nohchten to the training site. KVPs were engaged in submachine gun and heavy machine gun firing on the firing range and in firing practice at practice targets in the terrain at 1 p.m.¹

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7. Tanks and AT artillery practiced firing on the tank firing range from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. during the night of 14 August. Red and green ground signals were fired. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 17 and 18 August, tanks and AT artillery practiced firing on the training site.¹ T-34/85 tank [redacted] towed to Camp Nockten from the tank firing range at 1 p.m. on 18 August.¹

8. On 13 August, 8 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] practiced driving in forest sections No 98, 99, 100 and 114 on the tank training site near Camp Tzschelin. Driving practices held there on 19 August included 10 T-34/85 tanks.

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10. At about 6 a.m. on 12 August, 2 railroad tank cars at the Weisswasser railroad station were emptied into tank trucks [redacted] each with a trailer, which left toward Nockten. Two boxcars and a refrigerator car were unloaded at the supply depot at about 10 a.m. the same day.¹

11. Between 17 and 23 August, 5 SU-76 guns and 9 trucks, including 4 tank trucks, were observed on the tank parking lot of Camp Nockten. An undetermined number of T-34 tanks were parked in the camp. Five T-34 tanks [redacted] and up to 4 SU-76 guns were daily observed between the camp and the tank training site east of Tzschelin. KVPs stated that driving practices and small-scale combat exercises were held on the tank training site. Tank firing was heard daily from the Nockten firing range.¹

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12. On 20 August 1953, the 1st Tank Training Bn from Zeithain, with its companies numbering 70 men each, left Camp Nockten to be loaded at Uhyst railroad station. On the same day, 100 KVPs without heavy weapons arrived in Camp Nockten from Spremberg equipped with two field kitchens.³

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13. On 6 September, [redacted] large-scale KVP maneuvers were held on the Traenke Troop training grounds near Ritschen. All approach roads were blocked by KVP from 31 August to 10 September, daily from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. KVP that relieved the guards arrived on truck [redacted] Motor vehicles [redacted] were identified on the training grounds.⁴

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